

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 2, 2007 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Subject Matter Indicated Allowed or Allowable

Applicants are grateful for the indication of allowability of claim 4, subject to its re-writing in independent form. It is respectfully submitted that, for the reasons detailed below, claim 1, from which claim 4 depends, is allowable on its merit and it is unnecessary to include the limitations of claim 4 in claim 1.

Claim Objections

Claims 6-11 have been objected to for improper multiple dependency. Claims 6-11 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency therefrom and the objection thereto should be withdrawn.

Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 1, from which claims 2-10 depend and were rejected accordingly, has been amended to remove the word “particularly,” and thereby obviate the rejection of claim 1 and dependent claims 2-10.

Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1-3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Snook (U.S. pat. no. 2,218,270) in view of Asakura et al. (U.S. pat. no. 4,977,349). Applicants respectfully traverse.

In Snook, the first and second mirrors are mirrors C and C1, respectively. Mirror C1 makes light converge onto the object Original, not onto the detection device P, in contradistinction with the presently claimed invention. Alternatively, if mirror M is considered as the first mirror, as contended in the Office Action, then it will be noted that mirror M does not

collect light from the source S: it collects light from the object Original, which is again contrary to the presently claimed invention. Askura and Troue, on the other hand, are directed to a mercury vapor discharge lamp, so that their combination with Snook would not realize the presently claimed invention.

With regard to claim 5, it will be appreciated that neither of mirrors C or C1 in Snook is off axis.

Newly-Added Claims

Claims 11-12 have been added to further particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Support for new independent claim 12 in particular can be found for instance on page 12, lines 8-9, and page 13, lines 6-7 of the specification. Claim 12 relates to a system which makes possible not only to increase of light flux but also to reduce the size of the source image, whereas Snook discloses a microscopy device in which the image size is increased.

Conclusion

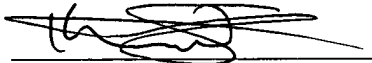
In view of the preceding discussion, Applicants respectfully urge that the claims of the present application define patentable subject matter and should be passed to allowance.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone call would help advance prosecution of the present invention, the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number below.

Please charge any additional required fees, including those necessary to obtain extensions of time to render timely the filing of the instant Amendment and/or Reply to Office Action, or credit any overpayment not otherwise credited, to our deposit account no. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
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